

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled):

Claim 34 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and

wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of the knee-joint of said human and extends obliquely from a superior side of said knee-joint through at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the anterior surface of the corresponding thigh of said human and along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said human beneath said anterior surface of said thigh, thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion.

Claim 35 (new): A garment as defined in claim 34, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said human.

Claim 36 (new): A garment as defined in claim 34, wherein said first portion further covers a lateral side of the patella and a part of the lateral inferior side of the patella, thereby maintaining the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 37 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,
wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and

wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of the knee-joint of said human and extends obliquely from a superior side of said knee-joint through at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length of the anterior surface of the corresponding thigh of said human and along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said human beneath said anterior surface of said thigh, thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion.

Claim 38 (new): A garment as defined in claim 37, which further includes a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said third portion extends, on the posterior side of the wearer, from the vertebrae lumbales to the os sacrum, through an approximately middle parts of the right and left musculus gluteus maximus in a direction approximately along said musculus gluteus maximus via the vicinity of the top bulge of the hip to at least the vicinity of the trochanter major; and

which further includes a fourth stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said fourth portion extends, on the anterior side of the wearer, a position in the hypergastric region of the musculus retus abdominis obliquely downward in the direction approximately along the right and left musculus obliquus internis abdominis usportion to the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 39 (new): A garment as defined in claim 37, wherein when said garment is capable of covering the body of said human from the waistline to a superior side of the ankles.

Claim 45 (new): A garment as defined in claim 41, wherein said first portion further includes, on a superior side of said knee joint, a part extending approximately along at least one corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus semitendinosus, (ii) the musculus semimembranosus, and (iii) the musculus gracilis to a vicinity selected from the group consisting of (i) the vicinity of the crotch and (ii) the vicinity of the sulcus gluteus.

Claim 46 (new): A garment as defined in claim 40, which further includes a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said third portion extends, on the posterior side of the human, from the vertebrae lumbales to the os sacrum, through an approximately middle parts of the right and left musculus gluteus maximus in a direction approximately along said musculus gluteus maximus via the vicinity of the top bulge of the hip to at least the vicinity of the trochanter major; and

which further includes a fourth stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said fourth portion extends, on the anterior side of the wearer, a position in the hypergastric region of the musculus retus abdominis obliquely downward in the direction approximately along the right and left musculus obliquus internis abdominis usportion to the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 47 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,
wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and

wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of the knee-joint of said human, extends approximately along a vicinity of the periphery of the patella of said human on a medial side thereof to surround said patella through at least approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the periphery of said patella to cover at least a part of an inferior region of said patella and extends to a side of a muscle selected

third portion extends from a vicinity of the corresponding trochanter major approximately along the corresponding tractus iliotibialis to a lateral side of said patella; covers at least a part of the inferior region of said patella extending from the lateral side thereof; and passes a side of the corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus gastrocnemius, (ii) the musculus soleus, or (iii) a combination thereof on the lateral side.

Claim 53 (new): A garment as defined in claim 52, wherein said first portion further extends obliquely upward from a side of the musculus gastrocnemius on the medial side through the vicinity of the periphery of the inferior side of the patella and reaches the lateral side of the patella, thereby maintaining the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 54 (new): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first portion further extends approximately along at least one corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus semitendinosus, (ii) the musculus semimembranosus, and (iii) the musculus gracilis to a vicinity selected from the group consisting of (i) the vicinity of the crotch and (ii) the vicinity of the sulcus gluteus.

Claim 55 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,
wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and

wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterale medialis on a medial side of the knee joint of said human; and

on a superior side of said knee joint, extends obliquely and spirally from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh along the musculus sartorius.

Claim 56 (new): A garment as defined in claim 55, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said human.

Claim 57 (new): A garment as defined in claim 55, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said human.

Claim 58 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and

wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterale medialis on a medial side of the knee joint of said human; and

on a superior side of said knee joint, extends obliquely and spirally from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 59 (new): A garment as defined in claim 58, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said human.

Claim 60 (new): A garment as defined in claim 58, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said human.

Claim 61 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,
wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and
wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of the knee-joint of said human, extends approximately along a periphery of the vicinity of the medial side of the patella to cover an inferior region of the patella, reaches a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and the medial side of the musculus soleus, and
on the superior side of the knee joint, extends from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh via the anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, and
wherein said first portion includes a triangle-shaped part on the lateral inferior side of the patella, and wherein a vertex of a projecting part of said first portion of a part of the inferior region of the patella which reaches a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and the musculus soleus on the medial side contacts a vertex of said triangle-shaped part at a position on the inferior side of the patella, thereby maintaining the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint; and
wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said human.

Claim 62 (new): A tights-type leg support garment to be worn by a human, said garment comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion and

wherein when said garment is worn by said human, said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of the knee-joint of said human,

extends approximately along a periphery of the vicinity of the medial side of said human around a part of periphery the patella to cover an inferior region of the patella, extends obliquely through the anterior side of the lower leg region to the lateral side of said human in the direction of the malleolus lateralis, and

on the superior side of the knee joint, extends from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh via the anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, thereby maintaining the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.